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IN THE CLAIMS*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: capable of acquiring maintenance information from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored via a communication line, and capable of communicating with a management apparatus, comprising:~~

an acquiring device that acquires the maintenance information from the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored; and

a management device that carries out one of management of completion of installation of the monitoring apparatus and central management of completion of operations carried out for the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored.

wherein said management device comprises an installation completion report generating device that generates an installation completion report including information specifying the monitoring apparatus when installation of the monitoring apparatus is completed[;], and

wherein the monitoring apparatus further comprises an installation completion report sending device that sends the generated installation completion report to the management apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) A monitoring apparatus according to claim [[1]]2, wherein the maintenance information acquired from the image forming apparatuses includes information relating to consumable supplies used in the image forming apparatuses, and information relating to failure having occurred in the image forming apparatuses.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, capable of acquiring maintenance information from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored via a communication line, and capable of communicating with a management apparatus, comprising:~~

an acquiring device that acquires the maintenance information from the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored;

a management device that carries out one of management of completion of installation of the monitoring apparatus and central management of completion of operations carried out for the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored;

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a selecting device that selects a predetermined image forming apparatus from among the plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an operation start report sending device that sends an operation start report relating to the image forming apparatus selected by said selecting device to the management apparatus; and

an operation completion report sending device that sends an operation completion report relating to the image forming apparatus selected by said selecting device to the management apparatus.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an operating device that carries out operations for the selected image forming apparatus after the operation start report is sent; and wherein said operation completion report sending device generates the operation completion report including contents of the operations carried out by said operating device, and sends the generated operation completion report to the management apparatus.

6. (*Original*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operation completion report sending device generates the operation completion report including information identifying the monitoring apparatus.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, further capable of acquiring maintenance information from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored via a communication line, and capable of communicating with a management apparatus, comprising:

an acquiring device that acquires the maintenance information from the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored;

a management device that carries out one of management of completion of installation of the monitoring apparatus and central management of completion of operations carried out for the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored;

an operation start report generating device operable when operation for an image forming apparatus selected from the plurality of image forming apparatuses to be subjected to operation are started, to generate an operation start report including information specifying the image forming apparatus subjected to the operation and information indicative of operation starting date and time;

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an operation start report sending device that sends the operation start report to the management apparatus;

an operation completion report generating device that generates an operation completion report including information capable of being correlated with the operation start report and information indicative of operation completion date and time; and

an operation completion report sending device that sends the operation completion report to the management apparatus.

8. *(Original)* A management apparatus capable of communicating with a monitoring apparatus that is capable of acquiring maintenance information from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored via a communication line, comprising:

an installation completion report receiving device that receives an installation completion report including information identifying the monitoring apparatus by electronic mail; and  
a normal periodic processing device that identifies the monitoring apparatus having been installed according to the received installation completion report, and carries out a normal periodic process for the identified monitoring apparatus.

9. *(Original)* A management apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

an operation start report receiving device that receives an operation start report including information identifying an image forming apparatus subjected to operation, and information indicative of operation starting date and time;

an operation completion report receiving device that receives an operation completion report including information capable of being correlated with the operation start report and information indicative of operation completion date and time; and

an operation time period recognition device that recognizes an operation time period for which operation is carried out for the identified image forming apparatus according to at least one of the operation start report and the operation completion report.

10. *(Original)* A management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the normal periodic process comprises a process in which the monitoring apparatus is periodically requested to send information acquired from the image forming apparatuses to be monitored by the monitoring apparatus.

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11. (*Original*) A management apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a nullification device operable upon receipt of the operation start report, to nullify a notification of counter information or failure relating to the image forming apparatus subjected to operation, sent from the monitoring apparatus.

12-24. (*Canceled*)